

Project Name: Samarth Project
Agreement Type: *Unilateral (Cooperative Agreement)*
Duration: *Oct 2006-Sept 2011*
Geographic Scope: *National, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry*
Technical Assistance Agencies: *Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI), the Indian Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS (INP+), and Solidarity & Action Against the HIV Infection in India (SAATHII)*
Implementing Agency: *Family Health International (FHI)*

DESCRIPTION:

The Samarth project is one of three components under the umbrella of the \$49-million Enhance Project that will directly contribute to implementing quality HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment through technical assistance (TA), capacity-building, and institutional strengthening of government and civil society. Family Health International (FHI) implements the project in partnership with the Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI), the Indian Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS (INP+), and Solidarity & Action Against the HIV Infection in India (SAATHII). The key strategic approaches of the project are capacity building, engendering bold leadership and demonstrating best practices.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

The Project extends needs-based capacity-building assistance to government and non-government stakeholders using a variety of methods, including workshops, conferences, site visits, and exchange programs; placement of program and technical experts at the national, state, and district levels; and provide tailored TA to individuals and organizations at the following levels:

State and district: Samarth provides technical and program management skills to government and non-government staff in the key areas of program planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and sustainability. It aims to build networks and coalitions with community-based groups including PLHA networks and FBOs to implement well-coordinated programs that are mutually supportive. Samarth also has a mandate to provide TA to other USG partners. In addition, four demonstration projects in Delhi are currently supported through Samarth for prevention of HIV/AIDS through life-skills and adolescent education and for care and support to PLHA through palliative care and OVC programming. Lessons learned and best practices on program management areas, such as monitoring and review, CMIS, and sustainability, will be documented and disseminated with government and non-government partners.

National: FHI provides needs-based TA to NACO and SACS in the four priority USG states through various mechanisms. To strengthen the operationalization of the GIPA strategy at the national, state, and district levels, FHI, in partnership with the Indian Network of Positive persons (INP+) will establish (Community Review Panels (CRPs) and place Community Advisors in NACO and the SACS in USG priority states. The Samarth Project also provides TA to The Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) in specific areas to strengthen the leadership and governance of the GFATM County Coordinating Mechanism Secretariat.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Provision of technical assistance to NACO in key thematic areas of counseling and testing, epidemiology, basic services and ART through 31 managerial and technical officers placed at NACO.
- Technical assistance to state AIDS Control Societies for nine states including 4 high prevalence states (Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala, Goa, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand) to develop the State Project Implementation Plan to support the goals outlined under NACP-3.
- Establishment of Technical Support Unit in Uttar Pradesh and Support to NACO for mapping of high-risk groups in Uttar Pradesh
- Development of operational guidelines for implementing programs for children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in joint collaboration with ministry of Women and Child Development and NACO.

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